

# **Montana Newsletter**

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# Youth Employment Program

The Human Resources Division (HRD) was recently awarded a \$650,000 grant in national competition by the Office of Farm Worker Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, to facilitate the entry of seasonal farmworker and migrant youths, ages 14 through 21, into the Integrated Delivery System for Montana Youth Employment Programs. The goals of the System are (1) to encourage youth to return to and/or remain in school, (2) enhance the employability of youth by providing skill-related work experience, (3) establish worksites and/or job sampling sites worthy of the granting of academic/elective high school credit for competencies gained while participating in an activity or combination of activities, and (4) effectuate a smooth transition of youth from education into employment.

Services are currently provided to over 3,000 economically disadvantaged youth through four programs authorized under Title IV of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA). Those programs, administered by HRD, are coordinated with activities administered by local school districts and the Montana Job Service, and include:

1. Youth Employment and Training Program (YETP), which provides work experience for youth in private non-profit or public agencies, experience-based career education, job sampling in private sector sites, work-related counseling and supportive services, development of an employability plan, on-the-job training and classroom training for participants.

2. Youth Community Conservation and Improvement Projects (YCCIP), which offer work experience and support for youth on projects requested by community-based organizations (ex., painting and repair of a senior citizens center, making benches and picnic tables for a local park).

3. Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), which includes work experience and career awareness programs. (Approximately 75% of all YETP participants also take part in SYEP.)

4. Florence Crittenton Single Mothers Program (FCSMP), which operates only in Helena but helps young unwed mothers from around the state gain independent living and parenting skills as well as work experience.

Like the other four elements of the Integrated Delivery System, the Seasonal Farm Worker and Migrant Youth Program will be administered directly through Montana's 10 Human Resource Development Councils (HRDC's). A youth counselor/coordinator will be hired in HRDC to spearhead the program, directing outreach and recruitment efforts, working with participants during the program year, and carrying out other related activities needed to enhance success of the

program locally. Where existing System program sites are not accessible to seasonable farm work and migrant youth, grant funds may be used to establish additional sites.

One important program outcome is expected to be accumulation of information regarding the demographic characteristics and geographic distribution of seasonal farm workers in the state. This data will serve as the basis for assessment of the needs of those individuals and families and the development of programs or services to meet those needs.

Current federal regulations define seasonal farm workers as those who spend a minimum of 25 days a year on a farm or ranch, are not paid on a yearly salary basis, and who meet certain income guidelines. Migrant workers are those who travel from their homes to work on a farm or ranch but cannot return home the same day.

A fifteen member advisory board chaired by Rod Garcia of Billings meets eight times a year to advise HRD on policy issues in migrant and seasonal farm worker programs. The board will soon be expanded to include representation from participants in the new youth program, which is tentatively scheduled to begin August 1, 1979.

Persons or groups wanting further information about any of the programs of the Integrated Delivery System should contact either their local HRDC youth programs director or Cyndy Olsen, Youth Programs Manager, Human Resources Division, Department of Community Affairs, Capitol Station, Helena, Montana 59601, telephone 449-3420.

## Planning Division Reorganized

A recent major change in DCA's planning program has culminated in staff reorganization as well as a division name change. Effective July 3, the name of the Planning Division was changed to Community Development to better reflect the range of activities within the new organization.

The organization of the Community Development Division is designed to accommodate a stronger community development program and lessen emphasis on land use planning and associated regulatory activities. The local planning assistance program will continue. However, emphasis has been shifted to plan implementation and planning for specific community projects as opposed to general land use planning.

(Continued on page 5.)

# 701 Comprehensive Planning Assistance Program

## FY 1980 Grantees

The Community Development Division has announced the FY 1980 recipients of grant awards for local planning programs under HUD's 701 Comprehensive Planning Assistance Program. Thirty-five pre-applications were submitted requesting a total of \$250,000. The Montana allocation for local planning assistance was only \$120,000, making selection particularly difficult. The successful proposals were those which best addressed the criteria the Division had developed for ranking applications:

- 1) The severity of the need or problem identified and the extent to which the proposal will help meet the need or solve the problem.
- 2) How the problem or need relates to the following National Policy Objectives: community conservation and aid to distressed places, expansion of housing and employment opportunities, and the promotion of orderly and efficient growth.
- 3) Whether the project is part of an overall community effort to meet the need or solve the problem.
- 4) The financial capability and willingness of the applicant to carry out an ongoing planning program.
- 5) The technical and administrative capabilities of the applicant for successful completion of a planning program.

Programs funded this year are heavily oriented to activities which implement planning goals. Also included are some new programs for areas with severe growth problems and demonstrated local support. In his letter notifying grantees of their award, Division Administrator Hal Price urged planning board chairmen to make a special effort this year to strengthen local support for planning programs. Although interest in the 701 program is very strong in Montana, national funding levels are being significantly decreased. The following are the planning boards and programs which received awards:

Grantee	Program
Beaverhead County Planning Board	1. Administration and enforcement procedures for Dillon zoning program. 2. A development permit system for the 8 mile area around Dillon. 3. A personnel policy manual.
Belgrade Planning Board	The development of land use regulations and other programs to implement the comprehensive plan.
Broadwater County Planning Board	Development of a growth management plan for the increasing suburban and recreational growth in the county.
Daniels County Planning Board	Development of a land use and housing element for Scobey.
Fort Benton Planning Board	Development of a land use and housing element to enable the adoption of an interim zoning ordinance as a permanent regulation.
Glasgow City-County Planning Board	Development of an implementation program for the updated land use and housing plans.
Hamilton City Planning Board	1. Development of a capital improvement program. 2. A housing condition survey to accompany the street improvement program. 3. Development of project proposals and supporting studies for an economic development program.

(Continued on next page.)

## Planning Assistance Program Grantees, Con't

### Grantee

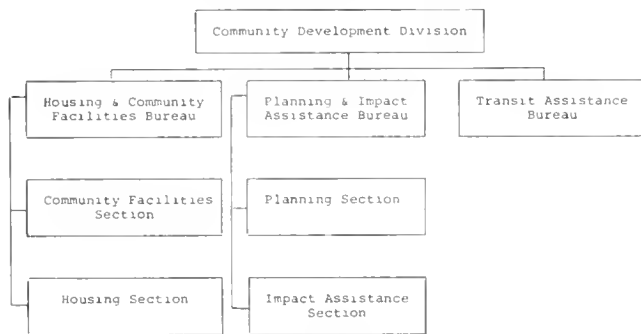
### Program

Hot Springs City Planning Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of land use and housing elements.</li> <li>2. Plans for downtown revitalization, recreation facilities and programs, and health care.</li> </ol>
Judith Basin County Planning Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of plans for water, sewer and street improvements for Stanford.</li> <li>2. A drainage plan for Stanford.</li> <li>3. A feasibility study for a medical facility.</li> <li>4. An improvement plan for the fairgrounds.</li> <li>5. Plans for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>solid waste facility</li> <li>recreation facilities</li> <li>street lighting program</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Livingston City-County Planning Board	Development of a zoning ordinance revision include recently completed historic district recommendations and an enforcement and administration plan.
Manhattan City-County Planning Board	Development of a land use and housing element and a zoning ordinance.
Meagher County Planning Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of improvement plans for water, sewer, and street facilities in White Sulphur Springs.</li> <li>2. Development of a recreation program.</li> <li>3. A zoning feasibility study for White Sulphur Springs.</li> </ol>
Mineral County Planning Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establishment of a housing authority.</li> <li>2. A land use and recreation program for the river corridors in the county.</li> <li>3. Implementation of a plan to develop a timber cooperative.</li> </ol>
Phillips County Planning Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of a zoning ordinance for one mile around Malta with administration and enforcement program.</li> <li>2. Development of mapping and regulations for airport influence and floodplain districts.</li> <li>3. Updating a comprehensive plan.</li> <li>4. A soils and slope survey for the one mile area around Malta.</li> </ol>
Plains City Planning Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of a zoning ordinance.</li> <li>2. Development of a housing rehabilitation program.</li> </ol>
Pondera County Planning Board	Development of a land use and housing element for Valier.
Poplar City Planning Board	Development of land use and housing elements.
Shelby City Planning Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of a zoning ordinance.</li> <li>2. Capital improvement plans for storm drainage and water lines.</li> </ol>
Wolf Point City Planning Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of a zoning administration and enforcement program.</li> <li>2. A land ownership (tribal and private) study in the mile area around Wolf Point preparatory to zoning.</li> </ol>

## Planning Division Reorganized, Con't. from p. 2

Examples of these types of planning assistance are: planning to facilitate financing and development of renewal projects, planning related to rapid growth in communities impacted by coal and other energy developments and functional planning for specific public facility projects such as sewer and water systems. It is anticipated that the division's review of preliminary plats of subdivisions will be limited to those received from localities that do not have a planning staff.

The function of the community development program is to provide technical assistance and support to county and municipal governing bodies, planning boards and community development organizations in order to help them implement their goals, policies or plans, with particular emphasis placed on meeting needs for physical improvements to the community.



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# National Spotlight on **Local Government Accounting**

Recent developments in Washington have focused national attention on local government budgeting, accounting and reporting practices. Studies conducted by public interest groups, accounting and professional organizations have documented an absence of standardized local government accounting systems and the consequences for government officials, voters, creditors, rating agencies and investors. Coming in the wake of California's Proposition 13, such studies underscore taxpayer demand for accountability at all levels of government.

On May 23, Senator Harrison Williams (D-NJ) introduced legislation which would standardize and provide uniformity in the accounting and financial reporting of state and local governments. The bill, entitled the *State and Local Government Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards Act of 1979*, creates two regulatory bodies to oversee state and local government accounting practices. The first would be the Council on State and Local Government Accounting and Reporting Standards, composed of the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, the Comptroller General of the U.S., and the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The second organization, the Institute for State and Local Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, would be comprised of federal, state and local officials, members of the accounting profession and representatives of the general public. The Council would appoint members to the Institute and be responsible for reviewing its bylaws and other procedural issues pertaining to Institute activities. The Institute would actually promulgate accounting and financing reporting standards.

In justifying his bill, Senator Williams stated his belief that improved accounting principles lie at the very heart of improving the management of government. He said that accurate financial information is indispensable to the formulation of intelligent, informed federal, state and local budget decisions. Standardized accounting principles will permit simplified, more accurate budgeting and financial reporting and illuminate the fiscal condition and operations of government.

If passed by Congress, the Financial Reporting and Standards Act would impact all Montana county, city and town governments. For those entities currently operating on DCA's statewide Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System (BARS), the impact would be minimal, since Montana's uniform system currently meets accounting and reporting standards promulgated by the National Council on Governmental Accounting (NCGA) and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). It is believed that accounting standards set as a result of Senator Williams' bill would initially entail only subtle modifications to existing NCGA and AICPA standards.

Another bill which mandates nationwide local government accounting standards was introduced in June by Representative Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY). House Resolution 3697 would require an assessment of the costs imposed on state and local governments by federal laws. Under this bill, the Congressional Budget Office would prepare fiscal notes on proposed federal legislation similar to the fiscal estimates prepared on bills introduced in the Montana legislature. To accurately assess the impact of federal legislation, however, will require that all states and their local governments adopt comparable and standardized procedures for budgeting, accounting and reporting. The House Budget Committee is expected to hold hearings on this legislation during the summer.

# Federal Coal Impact Assistance Program Begins

Governor Thomas L. Judge has designated two coal impact areas as potentially eligible for assistance under the Farmers Home Administration's Section 601 program. One is an interstate area, designated jointly by Governor Judge and Wyoming's Governor Ed Herschler, comprising the counties of Big Horn, Carbon and Yellowstone in Montana and Johnson and Sheridan in Wyoming. The other designated coal impact area includes Custer, Musselshell, Powder River, Rosebud, and Treasure counties. Final approval of the designations rests with Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger.

The 601 program provides grants for site acquisition and development for housing and public facilities, and for preparing housing, public service and growth management plans. Counties, municipalities and special purpose agencies, such as school districts and public housing authorities within designated and approved impact areas may apply for 601 funds. Applications should be submitted prior to September 1, 1979.

The national funding level for 1979 is \$20 million. Up to 10 percent, or \$2 million, may be used for planning for housing, public services and growth management. The remaining \$18 million will be used for site acquisition or site development.

To be eligible for designation an area either had to have experienced an eight percent increase in coal

employment between 1977 and 1978 or be expecting to experience that increase each of the three years between 1979 and 1982. "Coal employment" for 601 means employment in coal mining, coal processing, coal mine and facility construction, coal transportation, and construction or repair of unit train rolling stock. Employment in power generation is not eligible. In addition to meeting the increase in coal employment requirement, an impact area must demonstrate a housing shortage or inadequate public services or facilities resulting from coal development, and must show that available funding sources are insufficient to meet those needs.

The Governor is required to submit to the Farmers Home Administration a State Investment Strategy for the designated approved areas. The Strategy is to establish a priority ranking of local projects and to recommend a funding level for each project eligible for 601 funds. Each project in the Strategy must be included in a local plan. The Farmers Home Administration will only fund local projects which are included in the State Investment Strategy. Montana's State Investment Strategy, which will be continually revised and updated, was submitted to FmHA on July 13th.

For further information about the FmHA 601 program contact Carol Ferguson of DCA's Community Development Division at 449-3757 or John Olerud of the state office of FmHA in Bozeman at 587-5271, extension 4211.

# Youth Recreation Program

DCA's Human Resources Division is receiving \$51,000 from the U.S. Community Services Administration to provide Summer Youth Recreation and Transportation activities for low-income Montana youth, ages 8 to 15. Special emphasis will be placed on meeting the needs of young people 8 to 13 who are not old enough to participate in regular CETA youth projects.

Actual grant operation will be delegated by the Division to local Human Resource Development Councils (HRDC's), whose boards of directors will determine what specific activities will be carried out in their areas of the state. Among some of the proposed activities are tours of state and national parks, athletic activities, arts and crafts projects, drama productions, and camping and backpacking experiences.

Many of the HRDC's are working with their local governments and youth groups (such as Big Brothers and Big Sister) to provide a summer of fun and learning for young people who might not otherwise enjoy such opportunities.

If you are interested in what is happening in your area, contact your local HRDC:

Action for Eastern Montana (Districts II and III)  
306 N. Kendrick Avenue  
Glendive, MT 59330  
Tel: 365-3364

Butte-Silver Bow Anti-Poverty Council (District XII)  
1100 Delaware Avenue  
Butte, MT 59701  
Tel: 792-7200

District IV HRDC  
935 Fourth  
Havre, MT 59501  
Tel: 265-6744

District VI Central Montana HRDC  
Wall Building  
Roundup, MT 59072  
Tel: 323-2547

District VII HRDC  
2520 First Avenue North  
Billings, MT 59101  
Tel: 248-7477

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## Youth Recreation Program, Continued from p. 6.

District IX HRDC  
234 East Main  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
Tel: 587-4486

District XI HRDC  
207 East Main  
Missoula, MT 59801  
Tel: 728-3710

Northwest Montana Human Resources (District X)  
8 First Street East  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
Tel: 755-1567

Opportunities, Inc. (District V)  
607 11th North  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
Tel: 761-0310

Rocky Mountain Development Council (District VIII)  
Neighborhood Facilities Center Building  
201 South Last Chance Gulch  
Helena, MT 59601  
Tel: 442-1552

District I is served, not by HRDC, but by the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation,  
P.O. Box 37  
Poplar, MT 59255  
Tel: 768-3881

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## HUD "Small Cities" Workshop to be Held

Communities interested in submitting pre-applications for grants under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Small Cities" program this Fall may wish to send representatives to a HUD-sponsored workshop on the program at the Northern Hotel in Billings, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., August 21, 1979. HUD representatives will review project eligibility guidelines, pre-application preparation, funding levels, and citizen participation requirements.

In the last fiscal year, ten Montana communities were awarded grants totaling over \$4 million. This year approximately \$5,427,000 will be available for projects in the state. One-year comprehensive grant applications will be limited to \$850,000 each, and single purpose programs to \$375,000. Small Cities grants can be used to meet a variety of community development needs, and are heavily weighted to favor projects of significant direct benefit to low-to-moderate income persons. The pre-application filing deadline is October 15, 1979.

All interested persons are invited to attend the workshop. A complete hot lunch will be available for \$4.30 per person for those who register prior to August 14, 1979. For lunch reservations or further information on the workshop, call Rusty Van Horne or Linda Howland of HUD in Denver at 303-537-4666 or Carol Daly or Ann Mulroney of DCA's Community Development Division in Helena at 449-3757.

## Historic Preservation Requirements For HUD "Small Cities" Program

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) "Small Cities" grant recipients are required to prepare an environmental review of their proposed projects to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other pertinent federal legislation assuring the public undiminished protection of the environment. The policies of NEPA require the use of all practicable means, consistent with other essential considerations of national policy, to improve and coordinate federal plans, functions, programs, and resources to the end that the Nation may, among other things, "preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage . . . ."

HUD has long taken the position that environmental review responsibility can be delegated to local governments participating in the CDBG program, and, in fact, new environmental review procedures for the CDBG program effective June 25, 1979, state in Section 58.5, "... [All] applicants for assistance... shall be required to assume responsibility for carrying out all of the provisions of NEPA relating to particular projects for which the release of funds is sought."

However, a recent decision in Federal District Court in an Anaconda case, **Citizens Defense Funds V. Edward J. Gallagher et al.**, CV-78-63-BU, USDC, District of Montana, held that HUD had improperly delegated historic preservation review responsibilities to CDBG recipients. Until and unless HUD successfully appeals the decision or until the relevant legislation and regulations are modified, Montana CDBG grantees are confronted with a unique situation, for the district court ruling applies only to grants made in the State of Montana.

Until the situation is resolved, HUD, through its Environmental Quality Division, must conduct its own historic preservation review of Montana CDBG projects for which funds have not already been released. Since HUD's staff is limited (currently one person is assigned to this effort), the more assistance the local community can provide the reviewer, the less time the review will take. Even if review responsibilities are eventually delegated back to the communities, it is obvious that close attention must be given to the need to protect and preserve historic or archaeological properties or sites affected by CDBG activities.

An active historic preservation program can have significant benefits for a community, preserving those man-made elements of the environment that have special character and that provide tangible links with the past. The preservation of historic buildings can give

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## Historic Preservation, Continued from p. 7.

a community a sense of orientation and identity, contribute to the conservation and rehabilitation of older buildings and neighborhoods, create new economic development in the form of increased tourism, conserve energy, provide tax incentives to property owners, and increase the community's taxable valuation.

The staff of Montana's Office of State Historic Preservation can provide assistance to communities in complying with federal and state historic preservation laws and making use of federal grants and loans available to finance preservation planning and implementation activities. Grantees wanting more information should contact Edrie Vinson, Historian, State Historic Preservation Program, 225 North Roberts, Helena, Montana 59601, telephone 449-4584.

Communities wishing to identify their historic properties and develop a plan for their preservation and creative use will also be interested in *Guidelines for Local Surveys*, a publication of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Services, National Register of Historic Places. A comprehensive guide to help ensure high-quality historic resource surveys, *Guidelines* is organized in a question and answer format that takes the reader step-by-step through the survey process. It is available for \$2.50 from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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## Historic Preservation Workshop Offered

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office in cooperation with the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will present an in-depth 3-day course on historic and archaeological preservation in Billings, August 22-23, 1979. Timed to coincide with HUD's Small Cities workshop and directed specifically toward the needs of local governments and groups involved in community development programs, the course will cover relevant laws and regulations, identification of historic and archaeological resources, determination of effects, resolution of adverse effects, and balancing community development and preservation objectives. Information on preservation financing will also be available.

The session will be conducted by Harbridge House, Inc., an international consulting firm, and participants will receive an extensive program workbook and a course completion certificate. Because of the need to limit workshop size to 30 persons, anyone interested in attending is asked to pre-register no later than August 10, 1979. Inquiries and/or registration requests should be directed to Carol Daly or Ann Mulroney of DCA's Community Development Division in Helena at 449-3757.

## Indian Resource Center Established

Indian tribes and Native American groups in Montana will benefit from a \$285,000 grant awarded by the Community Services Administration to the National Congress of American Indians Food and Nutrition Advisory Board to establish a National Indian Food and Nutrition Resource Center. The Center will be located in Denver, Colorado, and will be responsible for reviewing functions relative to pertinent food and nutrition programs, planning, delivery systems, manpower, monitoring mechanisms, and nutrition evaluation. Additionally the Center will be involved in tribal food and nutrition affairs and contracting operations.

The Center staff will consist of a director, attorney, program analyst, and three field representatives, with secretarial support. They will be available to provide advice and technical assistance to tribes and other concerned groups in contracting for and administering food distribution programs, such as Food Stamps and commodity centers.

The Advisory Board and the Resource Center will maintain liaison between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Indian Health Service, and U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare on a national and local level. New developments in food and nutrition programs will be monitored by the Center and up-to-date information disseminated to the tribes.

Individuals and groups interested in the Center and its services are urged to contact Feral Tallwhiteman at the Food and Nutrition Bureau of the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services in Helena at 449-3952 or Merle Lucas, Coordinator of Indian Affairs, Department of Community Affairs at 449-3702.

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## The Supreme Court Issues Subdivision Ruling

In a recent decision the Montana Supreme Court held that a conveyance scheme whereby a 14-acre tract of land was divided into 13 parcels in a single day by a series of "occasional sales" was obviously designed to evade the provisions of the Subdivision and Platting Act and the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act.

Despite this finding, however, the Court, in *State ex rel. Department of Health and Environmental Sciences v. LaSorte* (No. 14457, June 18, 1979), upheld the District Court's dismissal of the action brought by the Department to require compliance with the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act by the county clerk and recorder and the property owners.

(Continued on page 9.)

## **Supreme Court Issues Opinion, Continued from p. 8.**

Because the Court's reasons for upholding the dismissal are highly technical and somewhat confusing the decision seems to have little precedential value. However, certain portions of the opinion do give useful definition to the two subdivision acts. For example, the Court indicates that as a result of unspecified 1977 amendments to the Sanitation in Subdivision Act DHES has authority to regulate divisions of land created by certificate of survey under exemptions to the Subdivision and Platting Act. In addition, the Court states that if the occasional sale exemption (or, presumably, any other exemption) is used in an attempt to evade the Subdivision and Platting Act, the resulting division of land is to be treated as is any other subdivision.

## **UDAG Workshop Held**

Over sixty federal, state and local government officials, developers, and bankers met in Lewistown on June 21 and 22 for a workshop sponsored by DCA's Community Development Division on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's major economic development program, the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG). Ted Zelio from HUD's Denver Office opened the session with an overview of the program's objectives and application procedures. The Action Grant program is designed to alleviate economic distress by providing funds for development projects which bring new jobs and an increased tax base to eligible communities. A firm public/private partnership must be an integral part of the program proposal. To achieve this partnership HUD generally requires a commitment of at least four private dollars for every Action Grant dollar. The \$400 million annual allocation is awarded quarterly from a nationwide competition. Projects funded in the second quarter of FY 1979 included provisions of water and gas service for an industrial area; installation of water and sewer lines, traffic signals, and street widening to support a neighborhood shopping center; acquisition of an industrial site for lease/purchase by a manufacturing firm; a low interest second mortgage program for industrial companies; and a commercial and housing rehabilitation loan program in a downtown area. To date 398 Action Grant projects have been funded nationwide for a total of \$734.2 million federal dollars and a \$4.5 billion private commitment.

A profile of an Action Grant project was developed by the Community Development Division of DCA to focus the afternoon panel session. Included in the profile were a commercial rehabilitation loan program and water improvements to support industrial expansion.

Loan programs offered by the Small Business Administration and the Farmers Home Administration are often used to support the private financial partici-

pation in UDAG projects. John Cronholm of SBA, and Ted Hebnes and Roger Van Valkenburg of FmHA discussed how their programs could be integrated with the Action Grant projects. Larry Gallagher discussed how local bonding programs, particularly industrial revenue bonds, can be used to stimulate private commitment.

The process of targeting Action Grants to distressed communities was also reviewed by Zelio. Completion of a two-step eligibility process must precede the filing of an application. HUD determines preliminary eligibility applying statutory distress criteria to a national statistical base. Fifty-eight communities in Montana are currently designated by HUD as statistically qualified to proceed with the final eligibility procedure, completion of which enables a community to submit an application for funding. Final eligibility is granted by HUD following submission by the preliminarily eligible communities of equal opportunity employment and assisted housing information.

The Community Development Division is available to assist communities with the final eligibility and application procedures for Action Grants. For more information on the program and your eligibility status contact Ann Mulroney or Carol Daly at 449-3757.

## **Interim Legislative Studies Begin**

Nine interim study committees of the Legislature have been named by the Legislative Council to analyze a variety of laws and issues. Topics to be dealt with include annexation laws, corrections policy and prison facilities needs, state branch banking laws, payments in lieu of taxes for state-owned property, energy forecasting, inflation's effect on state pensions, litter control and container deposits, and seed certification. Both annexation and payments in lieu of taxes are likely to be of considerable interest to MCN readers, and they may want to keep in touch with the progress of the committees through the participating legislators and Legislative Council research staff.

The Annexation Laws Committee will review the eight existing, and frequently conflicting, state laws governing municipal annexations and make recommendations for needed revisions, additions, or deletions. Members include:

Senators Steven Brown, D-Helena; Lloyd Lockrem, R-Billings; George McCallum, R-Niarada; and Robert Peterson, D-Butte and Representatives James Azzara, D-Missoula; Jay Fabrega, R-Great Falls; Burt Hurwitz, R-White Sulphur Springs, and Gerald Kessler, D-Billings. Deborah B. Schmidt is the assigned legislative researcher.

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The committee on payments in lieu of taxes for state-owned properties and mandates to local government will study how the state can reimburse municipalities for basic services (i.e., water and sewer) to tax-exempt state buildings. It will also look into the impact of state laws on local communities. Committee members include:

Senators Max Conover, D-Broadview, Everett Lensink, R-Bozeman; Jesse O'Hara, R-Great Falls; Robert Watt, D-Missoula; as well as Representatives Verner Bertelsen, R-Ovando; Mike Cooney, D-Butte; Hershel Robbins, D-Roundup; and Bobby Spilker, R-Helena. Teresa O. Cohea will be the committee's legislative researcher.

The Annexation Committee held its initial meeting July 20 to organize and set direction for its study.

A third interim study which may be of interest to MCN readers will be conducted by a standing committee of the Legislature, rather than a temporary interim committee. The 1979 Legislature passed a resolution sponsored by Representative James Azzara (D-Missoula) which calls for an interim study of Montana's "Greenbelt" law in order to develop amendments which will make it more effective. The law, which provides a tax break for owners of agricultural land and tax penalties when it is taken out of agricultural use, has been the subject of controversy in and out of the Legislature in recent years. The Revenue Oversight Committee has requested that the study be assigned to it and will begin its deliberations this month. The committee is composed of Representatives W.F. Bennett (R-Columbia Falls), Ernie Dassinger (D-Forsyth), Jay Febrega (R-Great Falls), Dan Harrington (D-Butte), Herb Huenekens (D-Billings), Bob Sivertsen (R-Havre) and Senators Bob Brown (R-Whitefish), Jack Galt (R-Martinsdale), Tom Towe (D-Billings), Jean Turnage (R-Polson) and Robert Watt (D-Missoula). Teresa O. Cohea is the researcher for the Oversight Committee.

Persons interested in following the progress of these or other interim studies may wish to subscribe to the Legislative Council's newsletter, *The Interim*, which reports monthly on the activities of the interim committees. For further information contact the Legislative Council, Room 138, State Capitol, Capitol Station, Helena, MT, or phone 449-3064.

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# Transportation: New Urban Initiatives Program

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams recently announced a new Urban Initiatives Program as a means of implementing President Carter's Urban Policy. Under this program, \$200 million, authorized by the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978, is available annually to urban areas of all sizes to fund transit-related projects which assist local revitalization efforts. Potential projects such as intermodal terminals, transit malls, and joint development are being sought through this program to enhance public transportation, encourage economic and community development, and stimulate new employment among long-term unemployed and disadvantaged persons in urban areas.

Officials at all levels of government are encouraged to work together to identify eligible projects and prepare applications for funding. Applications should be submitted to the Denver regional office of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA), where the initial screening will take place. Final project selections will be made by UMTA's Washington office, with grant awards announced on a quarterly basis.

Eleven Urban Initiatives grants were awarded recently throughout the country, the first such awards under this new program. The urban areas ranged in size from Fall River, Massachusetts, to Baltimore, Maryland, and the projects funded included land acquisition and design of an underground trolley station to tie in with a \$126 million privately funded complex of retail, hotel, and office space; the conversion of an abandoned railroad depot to a bus transfer facility; the construction of an eleven-block pedestrian and transit mall; and support for joint development projects adjacent to new rapid rail stations. All of these projects help to carry out the President's Urban Policy announced last March and its goal of creating a new partnership among federal, state and local governments and the private sector.

Program guidelines which detail the types of projects which are eligible for funding, the requirements to be met before UMTA funding can be obtained, and the criteria being used in the selection process are available from Bryon Roberts, Assistant Administrator of DCA's Community Development Division, at 449-3757.



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